

Message Text

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12

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

NIC-01 IO-12 EUR-25 SAJ-01 AID-20 EB-11 RSR-01 /153 W
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R 221945 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8390

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

CINCSO FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 0729

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GY CU

SUBJECT: RELATIONS WITH CUBA

REF: BRIDGETOWN 638

1. TOOK OCCASION OF CALL ON PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM YESTERDAY TO INQUIRE ABOUT REPORTED STATEMENT TO PRESS IN BARBADOS BY CUBAN VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PELEGRIN TORRES TO EFFECT THAT CUBA EXPECTED ESTABLISH RESIDENT MISSIONS IN CAPITALS OF ENGLISH- SPEAKING CARIBBEAN STATES BEFORE END OF YEAR. BURNHAM SAID THIS NOT TRUE, WITH RESPECT TO GUYANA AT LEAST.

2. BURNHAM REMINDED ME THAT WHEN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS FORMALLY ESTABLISHED WITH CUBA LAST YEAR IT WAS AGREED THAT THEY WOULD BE ON NON- RESIDENT BASIS FOR TIME BEING. IT WAS ALSO AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT RESIDENT MISSIONS WOULD BE EXCHANGED IN DUE COURSE WHENEVER CONVENIENT FOR BOTH PARTIES. THERE WILL BE NO RESIDENT CUBAN MISSION IN GEORGETOWN UNTIL GUYANA ESTABLISHES ONE IN HAVANA, BURNHAM SAID. THIS CERTAINLY WILL NOT OCCUR THIS YEAR AS GUYANA CANNOT AFFORD IT. HAVANA HAS A RELATIVELY
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LOW PRIORITY, PRIME MINISTER WENT ON. PEKING SHOULD BE THE FIRST NEW POST TO BE OPENED, AND GOG FEELS NEED FOR ONE IN ISLAMABAD AS WELL. SOMEDAY, HE CONCLUDED, CUBANS WILL BE HERE, BUT NOT RIGHT AWAY.

3. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION, BURNHAM REPEATED HIS FAMILIAR ASSUMPTIONS THAT IN THIS ERA OF DETENTE A RAPPOCHMENET BETWEEN US AND CUBA INEVITABLE SOONER OR LATER, THAT CASTRO HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO CARRY OUT SOVIET ORDERS AND THAT USSR LOGICALLY MUST BE OPPOSING CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN SUBVERSION IN LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. AS I HAVE DONE ON MANY OCCASIONS IN PAST, I CHALLENGED HIS ASSUMPTIONS BUT WITHOUT NOTICEABLE EFFECT OTHER THAN A CONCESSION THAT HE REALLY DID NOT TRUST CUBANS COMPLETELY. BUT THE WORLD IS CHANGING, GUYANA MUST TRADE WHERE IT CAN, EVERYONE HAS TO TAKE SOME RISKS ETC ETC. KING

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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